

## **MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING**

Location: Conference Call  
Date: November 20, 2007  
Time: AZ Time: 1300 – 1550  
Participants: AMOC Lead Agencies: AGFD – Dave Cagle (Acting Chair); NMGFD – Matt Wunder; USDA FS – Cathy Taylor; USDA APHIS WS- Absent; USFWS – John Morgart, John Slown; and John Oakleaf (IFT Liaison); and WMAT – Cynthia Dale, and Krista Beazley. Cooperators Present: Greenlee County – Hector Ruedas, Kay Gale; New Mexico Department of Agriculture – Bud Starnes.

### **A. Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Agenda Review**

Dave Cagle called the AMOC meeting to order at 1305. After a brief welcome the agenda provided from the November 6, 2007 AMOC meeting action items was followed with several additions.

### **B. Updates**

Arizona Game and Fish hired 2 new technicians (Jeff Dolphin and Beth Orning-Tschampl) and is at full staff. The technicians should start around January 1, 2008. The USFWS is in the process of filing Dan Stark's position. The paperwork should be in to personnel by the end of the week. USFWS is also hiring 2 volunteers for the winter. The positions close on November 20, 2007.

### **C. Discussion on SOPs 5, 6, 11 and 13.**

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will draft Clarification Memos for SOPs 5, 6, 11 and 13, and submit them for AMOC and IFT review by close of business November 21.

**Action Item:** AMOC will provide comments to Dave Cagle by December 4.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will synthesize comments and provide a final version to AMOC to brief their respective directors by December 7.

### **D. Proposed SOP 25.0 - Media**

**Action Item:** AMOC will provide comments to Dave Cagle by November 27.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will send comments to John Morgart by November 29.

**Action Item:** John Morgart will synthesize comments and produce a clean and track changes version of the document by December 4 and send to Dave Cagle.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will bring the document to the Director Summit for discussion.

#### E. Outreach Items

1. AZ sign vendor quotes for 20" X 30" signs were \$31.46 per sign for an order of about 130 signs. Replacing vandalized signs and signs in Greenlee County was affirmed as the priority.

**Action Item:** Matt Wunder will look into the possibility of NMGFD contributing toward purchasing a portion of the sign order and report findings to Dave Cagle on November 26.

**Action Item:** WMAT will approach Defenders for the cost of 20 signs.

2. USFWS Wolf Brochure – Updated as of October 23, 2007. We need a reprint of 3,000-5,000 brochures.

**Action Item:** John Morgart will contact Liz Slown for the finalized version.

**Action Item:** All cooperators will look for money and report back at the AMOC meeting at Sevilleta.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will get a cost estimate from AGFD Printers.

3. Reward Poster – A final version of the reward poster was completed on April 2007. Law enforcement agencies are looking towards posting some of these posters.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will discuss with Shawna Nelson and send John Morgart the final version.

#### F. Roles and Responsibilities – Review and Edits

To date, the AMOC chair has received editorial comments from WS, USFS, and NMDGF.

**Action Item:** John Morgart will send USFWS comments November 21, 2007.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will synthesize comments and consolidate into one track changed document by November 27, 2007.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will send revisions to AMOC for a last review by November 27, 2007.

**Action Item:** AMOC will send any additional comments to Dave Cagle by December 4, 2007.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will incorporate comments and email out final draft for AMOC briefing of Directors by December 7, 2007.

G. Population Monitoring SOP 27.0.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will send internal AGFD IFT comments to John Oakleaf by November 21, 2007.

**Action Item:** IFT will incorporate comments and send to Dave Cagle by November 27, 2007.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will send to AMOC for a last review by November 27, 2007.

**Action Item:** AMOC will send any additional comments to Dave Cagle by December 4, 2007.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will incorporate comments and email out final draft for AMOC briefing of Directors by December 7, 2007.

H. Range Rider IFT Proposal.

**Action Item:** IFT will incorporate internal AGFD IFT comments and send to Dave Cagle by November 21, 2007.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will send to AMOC for a last review on November 27, 2007.

**Action Item:** AMOC will send any additional comments to Dave Cagle by December 4, 2007.

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will incorporate comments and email out final draft for AMOC briefing of Directors by December 7, 2007.

K. Forest Service Special Use Permit issued to Mexican Wolf Ecotourism businesses

Cathy Taylor has sent out a template of general guidelines and restrictions be applied to all future SUPs for wolf ecotourism related activities on National Forest lands

**Action Item:** AMOC should provide comments to Cathy Taylor by December 28, 2007.

#### L. New Mexico Concept Statements Document

John Morgart sent in comments from the USFWS.

**Action Item:** Matt Wunder will check with Bruce Thompson on any additional comments and incorporate appropriate changes.

#### M. New Mexico Wolf Monitoring Flights

The IFT and NMDGF are working together appropriately to ensure that the 15 monitoring flights happen this fiscal year.

#### N. Discussion on Elimination of Monthly Wolf Location Map

The previous action item was for Dave Cagle will meet with Bruce Sitko to determine the number of viewers who visit each of the wolf location data sets. It was determined that it was not possible to analyze specific hot links from the web page.

**Action Item:** The consensus view was to produce the maps quarterly, and drop the black and white version.

**Action Item:** John Oakleaf will inform the IFT of AMOC's decision and implement changes immediately.

**Action Item:** John Oakleaf will ensure that the changes are reflected in the upcoming monthly update.

**Note:** Dave Cagle met with Bruce Sitko on November 7, and was informed that only the specific web pages can be measured for number of visits, and specific links could not be measured for the number of visits. It is recommended to talk about the monthly maps at the next AMOC meeting (November 20).

#### H. December 11-13, 2007, AMOC/Directors Summit meeting

Discussion was presented on how long the directors' agenda needed to be to sufficiently cover all items. It was decided the directors only needed to be present on December 13 with a recommended starting time of 8:00 a.m. A main topic of discussion will be an update on the twelve public NEPA scoping meetings that are scheduled from November 26 – December 8.

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John Morgart stated that anybody interested in staying at the housing at Sevilleta need to contact Joslyn Bustamante December 2 to reserve a room. You should have already received this contact information from e-mail from Bill Van Pelt. The AMOC meeting is scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. on December 11, 2007. So, plan your travel needs accordingly.

O. Aspen Pack – Update. .

John Oakleaf updated AMOC that had been no additional depredations following the removal of AM863 and the translocation of the pups. The Aspen pack continues to be located on the national forest immediately adjacent (West) of the **LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION REDACTION**. WS-IFT has continued trapping since the removal of AM863 on November 1, 2007, but has not had any luck. John Oakleaf also discussed the WS-IFT investigator of the depredation events request to look at assigning depredation incidents to the pups based on previous investigations. The investigator was surprised at the size of the pups and thought that they may have been involved in one or more of the depredations. The IFT looked at the investigation reports for all of the depredations in the area on November 7, 2007. The IFT thought that some evidence pointed towards pup involvement in the October 15, 2007 depredation incident. However, there was no evidence of pup involvement within the reports on the other depredation incidents.

**Action Item:** The IFT will make a final assignment of strikes for the October 15, 2007 depredation incident next week. An email will be sent out to reflect the final decision.

**Action Item:** The IFT will write an updated recommendation on November 26, 2007 (30 days after the initiation of the removal order) and submit to AMOC for review and consideration. USFWS removal order was supported by USFWS, NMGFD and USFS. A minority recommendation was made by AGFD to remove f1046 by the most efficient means available. WS provided another minority recommendation to remove both f1046 and AF667 by the most efficient means possible.

P. Durango Pack – Update

John Oakleaf stated that there was nothing new to report. The Durango pack has been missing since November 1, 2007. The IFT has flown 3 flights and search numerous days on the ground for a location. The IFT will continue to monitor for the pack during routine monitoring activities, but will not actively search for the animals in the future.

Q. Paradise Pack – Discussion on the current understanding of the number of strikes

The IFT brought up that they wanted to ensure that the AMOC and the IFT were on the same page in terms of the number of depredation incidents currently assigned to the

Paradise pack based on previous discussion. M1048 was caught (permanent removal) in the area of the sheep depredations. M1048 was not associated with the Paradise pack. All of the sheep depredations were assigned to M1048. There were no additional sheep depredations following the removal of M1048. Thus, per previous discussion, the Paradise pack currently has no depredation incidents assigned to them.

**Action Item:** John Oakleaf will write a clarifying memo for the record and email out the specifics to ensure that the administrative record accurately reflects the assignment of these depredation incidents.

#### R. Work Plan – IFT annual work plan

John Oakleaf discussed the IFT's progress on the annual work plan. Currently, AGFD and NMDGF have completed work plans. However, AGFD has more information than NMDGF. For a combined work plan, it would seem appropriate to have the individual agencies work plan in a similar format. WMAT and USFWS need further development on their work plans.

**Action Item:** John Oakleaf will send the combined IFT work plan and AGFD work plan to Cynthia Dale, Matt Wunder, Renae Held, and Krista Beazley for a template for getting a final version completed and to AMOC prior to the end of the year.

#### S. Update on Public NEPA Scoping Meetings

John Slown presented information on the upcoming public NEPA scoping meetings. Panels are together and finalized. The panels are currently posted on the website for review and familiarization. .

John also stated that he needs more participation during the second week of meetings (December 3 – 8), and requested that more sign up to assist. It is not intended to pull IFT members out of the field to work these meetings, and other agency and/or county representation is requested.

Current Need for the Meetings (According to sign up at 6:51 p.m. on November 21): Flagstaff (1), Hon-Dah (1), Alpine (Full), Grants (Full), Albuquerque (Full), Socorro (Full), Alamogordo (1), Las Cruces (1), Glenwood (1), Safford (2), Tucson (4), Phoenix (3).

**Action Item:** Dave Cagle will talk with Jon Cooley, Dan Groebner, and Bill VanPelt about their availability for the Safford, Tucson, and Phoenix meetings.

**Action Item:** All attendees of the Flagstaff meeting need to be there at 1:00pm for an orientation. All attendees of subsequent meetings need to be at the facility one hour prior to the public entrance time.

T. Agenda for Directors Summit Meeting

1. Update on SOP 5, 6, 11, 13 and clarification memo
2. Recommendation from AMOC on translocation of 1008/1028
3. Roles and responsibilities document
4. SOP 25 and 27
5. NMDGF concept statement
6. NMDGF elk/wolf model
7. Budget summary
8. IFT Update – Presentation of population, depredations, etc.
9. Scoping meetings
10. General mention of USFS SUP for ecotourism
11. AGFD rabies vaccine protocol briefing
12. Less-than-lethal authorization of private individuals